

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-133. (Canceled)

134. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

~~transmitting a the plurality of video programs to a plurality of consumer devices at respective consumer locations, wherein each said consumer device comprises a mechanism configured to recognize classification information contained in received headers, a mechanism configured to automatically select for storage video programs from the plurality of video programs having a defined level of match between classification information associated with the video programs and preference information associated with the consumer device, and an overwriting mechanism configured to automatically overwrite stored digital data content with automatically selected video programs according to one or more defined criteria; and~~

~~transmitting classification information in a header associated with at least one of the plurality of video programs transmitted wherein said classification information comprises descriptive information other than specific identification of the at least one of the plurality of video programs.~~

creating a digital neural archive pattern library by sampling frames of at least one of a plurality of video programs to determine recognizable patterns within each of said sampled frames;

encoding the plurality of video programs, wherein the encoding is based, at least in part, on the recognizable patterns of the digital neural archive pattern library;

associating a header with at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs, wherein the header comprises descriptive information other than specific identification of the encoded video program;

distributing a plurality of user devices to a plurality of consumers, each consumer device comprising:

a processor configured to determine a level of match between descriptive information in the header and preference information associated with a user of the consumer device,

a storage medium configured to automatically store encoded video programs wherein the determined level of match corresponds to a predefined level of match and further configured to store digital neural archive pattern libraries, and

a recording mechanism configured to record at least one encoded video program and a digital neural archive pattern library on a removable and portable storage medium;

transmitting the plurality of encoded video programs, the header, and the digital neural archive pattern library to the plurality of consumer devices;

enabling at least one consumer device to play back an encoded video program by decoding the encoded video program using the digital neural archive pattern library, wherein the encoded video program is stored on one of the following: the storage medium of the consumer device, or the removable and portable storage medium.

135. (Currently amended) The method of claim 134 further comprising:

billing a consumer for enabling the at least one consumer device associated with the consumer to play back an encoded video program ~~once a video program has been selected for viewing that has been previously automatically selected for storage based upon preference information.~~

136. – 141. (Canceled)

142. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~141~~ 134, wherein the encoding further comprises ~~comprising:~~ encoding the plurality of transmitted video programs with time-based code keys A.

143. (Currently amended) The method of claim 142 wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the plurality of transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer devices and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer devices that are in good standing, wherein the playback device can only playback a video program if all three codes keys A, B and C have been received.

144. (Currently amended) The method of claim 143 further comprising:

receiving ~~by a central controller system~~ video program playback information from a consumer device when the time-based code keys C are provided.

145. (Currently amended) The method of claim 134 wherein the transmitting ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of encoded video programs is carried out by direct broadcast satellite transmission on multiple channels in compressed-time format.

146. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 134.

147. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium as in claim 146, further having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for billing a consumer for enabling the at least one consumer device associated with the consumer to play back an encoded video program once a video program has been selected for viewing that has been previously automatically selected for storage based upon preference information.

148. – 153. (Canceled)

154. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium as in claim ~~153~~ 147, further having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for encoding the plurality of ~~transmitted~~ video programs with time-based code keys A.

155. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium as in claim 154, wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the plurality of ~~transmitted~~ video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer devices and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer devices that are in good standing, wherein a consumer can only view a video program if all three codes keys A, B and C have been received.

156. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium as in claim 155, further having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for receiving video program playback information from a consumer device ~~by a central controller system~~ when the time-based code keys C are provided.

157. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium as in claim 146, wherein the instructions for transmitting ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of encoded video programs comprise instructions for transmitting ~~is carried out~~ by direct broadcast satellite transmission on multiple channels in compressed-time format.

158. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

a receiving mechanism configured to receive;

a plurality of ~~transmitted~~ encoded video programs,

~~wherein there is classification information in a~~ at least one header associated with at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs, wherein the at least one header ~~transmitted wherein said classification information~~ comprises descriptive information other than specific identification of the at least one of the encoded plurality of video programs, and

a digital neural archive pattern library, wherein the digital neural archive pattern library consists of recognizable patterns selected from frames of at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs;

a processor ~~comparing mechanism~~ configured to determine a level of match between descriptive information in the header and preference information associated with a user of the device ~~compare the classification information to preference information associated with the device;~~

~~a selection mechanism configured to automatically select for storage video programs from the plurality of transmitted video programs having a defined level of match between the classification information and the preference information;~~

~~a recording apparatus configured to record the automatically selected video programs based on the preference information; and~~

a storage medium configured to store encoded video programs and digital neural archive pattern libraries;

an automatic overwriting mechanism configured to; ~~with a predetermined level of automatically overwrite stored video programs with automatically selected video programs according to one or more defined criteria.~~

determine whether there is sufficient space in the storage medium to store a first encoded video program wherein the determined level of match of the first encoded video program corresponds to a predefined level of match.

select a second encoded video program stored in the storage medium to be overwritten, and

overwrite the second encoded video program with the first encoded video program;

a recording mechanism configured to record at least one encoded video program and a digital neural archive pattern library on a removable and portable storage medium; and

a decoding mechanism configured to decode an encoded video program for playback when the decoding mechanism is enabled, wherein the decoding the encoded video program is based in part on the digital neural archive pattern library, and wherein the encoded video program for playback is stored on one of the following: the storage medium, or the removable and portable storage medium.

159. (Canceled)

160. (Currently amended) The device of claim 158 further comprising:

~~a playback mechanism configured to playback a video program upon selection for playback by a user wherein said video program has been previously automatically selected for storage; and~~

a billing mechanism in communication with the playback mechanism configured to transmit billing information to a central billing system accounting for each time the automatically selected video program has been ~~selected~~ enabled for playback.

161. (Currently amended) The device of claim 158 further comprising:

a control mechanism in communication with the receiving mechanism configured to verify a received combination of time-based code keys for enabling said ~~authorizing~~ playback mechanism to play back the encoded video program ~~of said transmitted video programs, and to enable said playback.~~

162. (Previously presented) The device of claim 161 further comprising:

a decoding mechanism in communication with the control mechanism configured to decode transmitted video programs wherein time-based code keys A that are encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to a plurality of consumer devices and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer devices that are in good standing such that a consumer can only view a video program if all three codes keys A, B and C have been received by the playback device.

163. (Previously presented) The device of claim 162 wherein the billing mechanism comprises:

a mechanism configured to communicate an identity of said previously selected video program and a unique identifying address associated with said consumer to said central billing system in response to initiating playback of the previously selected video program; and

a playback-enabling mechanism configured to receive from said central billing system the time-based code key C for identifying a status of said consumer to enable said playback of said previously selected video program.

164. (Canceled)

165. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~164~~ 163, wherein the second encoded video program to be overwritten is the oldest stored video program in the storage medium ~~programs are overwritten with automatically selected video programs.~~

166. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~164~~ 163, wherein the second encoded video program to be overwritten is an older release of the first encoded video program ~~releases of stored video programs are overwritten with automatically selected video programs.~~

167. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~164~~ 163, wherein a header associated with the second encoded video program to be overwritten contains similar descriptive information as descriptive information in a header associated with the first encoded video program ~~a defined criterion is that stored digital data content which least fits a preference associated with the consumer device is overwritten with automatically selected video programs.~~

168. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

- receiving a plurality of encoded video programs at a consumer device;
- receiving at least one ~~classification information in a~~ header associated with at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs received, wherein the at least one header comprises descriptive information other than specific identification of the at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs;
- receiving a digital neural archive pattern library, wherein the digital neural archive pattern library consists of recognizable patterns selected from frames of at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs;
- determining a level of match between descriptive information in the header and preference information associated with a user of the device ~~comparing the classification information to preference information associated with the consumer device;~~
- ~~automatically selecting for storage video programs from the plurality of video programs having a defined level of match between the classification information and the preference information; and~~
- ~~automatically overwriting stored digital data content with automatically selected video programs according to one or more defined criteria;~~
- determining whether there is sufficient space in a storage medium to store a first encoded video program wherein the determined level of match of the first encoded video program corresponds to a predefined level of match;
- selecting a second encoded video program stored in the storage medium to be overwritten; and
- overwriting the second encoded video program with the first encoded video program;
- decoding, when enabled, an encoded video program for playback, wherein the decoding the encoded video program is based in part on the digital neural archive pattern library, and wherein the encoded video program for playback is stored on one of the following: the storage medium, or the removable and portable storage medium.

169. (Currently amended) The method of claim 168 further comprising:

receiving a bill once the decoding the encoded video program for playback is enabled a video program has been selected for viewing that has been previously automatically selected for storage based upon preference information.

170. (Canceled)

171. (Currently amended) The method of claim 168, wherein the second encoded video program to be overwritten is the a defined criterion is that oldest stored video program in the storage medium ~~programs are overwritten with automatically selected video programs.~~

172. (Currently amended) The method of claim 168, wherein the second encoded video program to be overwritten is an a defined criterion is that older release of the first encoded video program ~~releases of stored video programs are overwritten with automatically selected video programs.~~

173. (Currently amended) The method of claim 168, wherein a header associated with the second encoded video program to be overwritten contains similar descriptive information as descriptive information in a header associated with the first encoded video program ~~a defined criterion is that stored digital data content which least fits a preference associated with the consumer device is overwritten with automatically selected video programs.~~

174. (Canceled)

175. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a mechanism configured to receive a plurality of ~~transmitted~~ encoded video programs at a consumer device;

a mechanism configured to receive at least one ~~classification information transmitted in a header associated with at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs transmitted,~~ wherein the at least one header ~~said classification information~~ comprises descriptive information other than specific identification of the at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs;

a mechanism configured to receive a digital neural archive pattern library, wherein the digital neural archive pattern library consists of recognizable patterns selected from frames of at least one of the plurality of encoded video programs;

a mechanism configured to determine a level of match between descriptive information in the header and preference information associated with a user of the device
~~compare the classification information to preference information associated with the consumer device;~~

~~a mechanism configured to automatically select for storage video programs from the plurality of video programs having a defined level of match between classification information and preference information;~~

~~a recording apparatus operably coupled to the consumer device configured to store the automatically selected video programs; and~~

~~a mechanism configured to automatically overwrite stored digital data content with automatically selected video programs according to one or more defined criteria.~~

a mechanism configured to determine whether there is sufficient space in a storage medium to store a first encoded video program wherein the determined level of match of the first encoded video program corresponds to a predefined level of match;

a mechanism configured to select a second encoded video program stored in the storage medium to be overwritten; and

a mechanism configured to overwrite the second encoded video program with the first encoded video program;

a mechanism configured to decode, when enabled, an encoded video program for playback, wherein the decoding the encoded video program is based in part on the digital neural archive pattern library, and wherein the encoded video program for playback is stored on one of the following: the storage medium or the removable and portable storage medium.

176. (Currently amended) The system of claim 175 further comprising:

a billing mechanism configured to provide information that enables a provider to bill a consumer associated with the consumer device once the decoding the encoded video program for playback is enabled
~~a video program has been selected for viewing that has been previously automatically selected for storage based upon preference information.~~

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177. (Canceled)